

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 /077 W

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2530

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 6516

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, US, AU

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: MULTILATERAL INFORMATION ON AUSTRIAN
GOVERNMENT

REFS: A) STATE 159747, B) STATE 148782, (C) 76 STATE 37591,
D) 76 VIENNA 1557

1. WE HAVE CAREFULLY REVIEWED GOA POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES
REGARDING AUSTRIA'S MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS IN LIGHT OF REFTELS
A), B), AND C) AND OFFER FOLLOWING COMMENTS:

A) WE HAVE NO PROBLEMS PER SE IN MAKING MAXIMUM EFFORT
TO OBTAIN GOA SUPPORT FOR US POSITIONS ON KEY ISSUES CITED
PARA 3, REFTEL B, PROVIDED CAVEATS (ADEQUATE LEAD TIME,
SUFFICIENT INFORMATION, SUBSTANCE OF US POSITIONS ON
PARTICULAR ISSUES) CONTAINED IN PARA 5, REFTEL B, ARE OBSERVED.
WE HAVE FOUND IT EASIER IN PAST, ALL THINGS BEING EQUAL, TO
INFLUENCE AUSTRIAN POLICY AT FORMATIVE STAGE AT MFA OFFICE
LEVEL BEFORE RECOMMENDED POSITIONS HAVE BEEN PASSED TO
FOREIGN MINISTER FOR APPROVAL. HENCE WE CONSIDER EARLY
NOTIFICATION OF GENERAL US POSITION ON KEY ISSUES, EVEN IF
DETAILS AND LINE OF ARGUMENTATION ARE INCOMPLETE, TO
BE OF OVERRIDING IMPORTANCE. IN ADDITION, AND ESPECIALLY
ON ECONOMIC/SOCIAL ISSUES, WE HAVE HAD MORE SUCCESS WHEN
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OUR EFFORTS COULD BE CONCENTRATED ON FEWER BUT MORE
IMPORTANT ISSUES. NUMBER OF OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR
SUCH ISSUES IN MFA IS SMALL AND ABSENCE FROM VIENNA IS
HIGH SINCE SAME PEOPLE MUST STAFF GOA DELEGATIONS
AT INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS. THUS, EVEN WITH BEST
INTENTIONS AND EFFORTS, THEIR ABILITY TO PROMOTE
NUMEROUS POSITIONS WITH MANY OTHER AGENCIES INVOLVED IN

ECONOMIC/LEVEL ISSUES IS LIMITED. OUR EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN THAT WE CAN BE MOST EFFECTIVE WHEN PRIORITIES ARE CLEAR, AND WHEN POSTS HAVE GREATEST FLEXIBILITY TO EXPLOIT THOSE ISSUES WHERE PAYOFF PROSPECTS ARE GREATEST.

B) PROFILE OF AUSTRIAN MULTILATERAL INTERESTS, WHICH SET FORTH IN REFTEL D, CONTINUES TO APPLY. EXCEPT FOR FOREIGN MINISTER PAHR, ALL MAJOR PLAYERS ON AUSTRIAN SIDE, BOTH IN VIENNA AND NEW YORK, WILL BE SAME AT 32 UNGA AS AT 31 UNGA. WE HAVE IMPRESSION THAT PAHR, AS COMPARED HIS PREDECESSOR, REPRESENTS NET GAIN FOR US POSITIONS, PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS HUMAN RIGHTS, SINCE THIS HAS BEEN PAHR'S AREA OF SPECIALTY FOR MANY YEARS PRIOR TO HIS APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN MINISTER.

2. MLO IS POLCOUNS FRANK TRINKA. MEEHAN

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